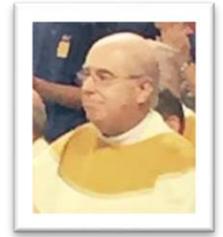


Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 4, 2018



Jesus - More Than a Miracle Worker!

We live in a fast moving age, an age of junk food and fast food and microwaves that promise meals in minutes. Our cell phones and computers make it possible for us to live life and conduct business at the speed of light. We need and want what we need and want right now, not tomorrow or the next day or next week. We want instant success and instant solutions to problems. And that attitude is often transferred to religion. Many fast-growing churches offer that sort of approach to faith: simple, unambiguous answers, healing on the spot. God becomes the Superman who saves us by instantly solving our problems and erasing our sorrows.

The people of Jesus' day were not very different. They were also impressed by miracle workers offering instant cures. They looked for a hero to save them. In fact, they had been waiting for a Messiah for several thousand years. It's no surprise that they were drawn to Jesus. He was the one who could say the word and make it all better as he does for Peter's mother-in-law in today's Gospel and all of the other sick who were brought to him later on.

The Gospel writer, Mark, knew Jesus was more than that. Remember that in the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus was very much the miracle worker, the healer, almost a magician and he attracted a lot of attention to himself. However, the Lord knew that those who saw him only as another wonder worker would miss the real meaning of his life. Jesus wanted people to understand who he really was and is. That would happen only after his death and resurrection when people would finally begin to realize that he was much more than a miracle worker.

In other words, to understand who Jesus is, we have to read the entire Gospel, all of the chapters, not just the ones about the miracles. To a world which wants a Superman, Jesus Christ comes not with a cape but with a cross. He is more than a hero or a magician – he is our Savior who promises eternal life to all believers. He does not offer fast food, but real food and real drink, his Body and Blood.

Yes, Jesus is healer and wonder worker – but only because he is the Son of God who died on the cross and rose to life again. There is more to faith than miracles. Our road to salvation is the way of Christ, and it's not a road of easy answers or instant solutions. It's the road mapped out in all of the chapters of the Gospel, the Gospel that follows the way of the Lord, the way that leads us through the cross to the resurrection.

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz
Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, February 5

1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Mk 6:53-56

7:00 AM Ted O'Rourke

12:00 PM David A. Stephens

TUESDAY, February 6

1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Mk 7:1-13

7:00 AM Deceased Members of the Regan Family

12:00 PM Rose Trozzi

WEDNESDAY, February 7

1 Kgs 10:1-10/Mk 7:14-23

7:00 AM William Murphy, III

12:00 PM Joseph Strilowich

THURSDAY, February 8

1 Kgs 11:4-13/Mk 7:24-30

7:00 AM Mary Thompson

12:00 PM John Leonard

FRIDAY, February 9

1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Mk 7:31-37

7:00 AM Natalie Ortonowski

12:00 PM Nancy and John Kearns

SATURDAY, February 10

1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Mk 8:1-10

8:00 AM Mary Margaret Hogan Thompson

4:30 PM Jim, Dick & Sam Gueci

SUNDAY, February 11

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45

Church

7:30 AM Dante Ligi

9:15 AM Parishioners of the Parish

11:15 AM Josephine Licursi

Hall

10:30 AM Fran Girardi

12:00 PM Mary P. Culhane

5:00 PM Dante Ligi

Register at our Parish! It's easy. Stop by our Parish Office or go to our website. We welcome you!



PRE-BAPTISM CLASS

Pre-Baptism instruction is required for parents who have not had any within five years and wish to have their child baptized. Our next class will be held Wednesday, **March 14th** from 7:30-

8:30pm in the Barn. Please call our Parish Office to register.



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

January 28, 2018	\$21,692	\$91,263
January 29, 2017	\$22,529	\$92,832

Latin America		
2018	\$3,791	
2017	\$4,315	



BAPTISMS

We welcome to the Family of God **Bryce William Berg** and **Layla Maria Danial** who were baptized in our Church last week.

2017 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

PARISH GOAL	\$305,000
RAISED TO DATE	\$363,234
% OF GOAL	119.09%

Prayers for the Sick



Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Olivia Avate**, **Fr. John Baran, Jeanne Mastandrea, Lee & Scott McCoy, Pat Ruhl and Jane Ventrella** For the sake of privacy, only immediate family members may add someone to our prayer list. Individuals will be removed monthly unless we are otherwise notified.



Love One Another as I have Loved You In John

15:12, Jesus says, "This is

my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to others. If you know of someone going through a difficult time, talk to one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders, Mary Ann O'Grady – 203-438-5610 or Jack Hughes – 203-665-0054. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They help bring the healing power of Christ's love.



THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Encounter • Formation • Discipleship

The Leadership Institute at the Diocese of Bridgeport offers many interesting programs. Check out their website to see what's coming up!
www.formationreimagined.org

Religious Education



Our Grade 7 Family Mass will be the Noon Mass on Sunday, February 11th.

Confirmation classes are on February 11th and 12th. This month's theme is Reconciliation. Service forms are due as well as the Gospel Reflections for the month of January.

Family Formation classes are on February 4th, 5th, and 6th, as we study the Covenants that God made with Noah, Abraham and Moses.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

There is no such thing as an "unwanted child"; there are only "unwanting parents." Each child is sent into the world by God with a unique message to deliver, a new song to sing, and a personal act of love to bestow –*lifecollective.io* Join us for our next Respect Life meeting this Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 PM in the Day Chapel. www.smcr.org/respect-life



DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Pope Francis has said that: "It is the duty of everyone to defend religious freedom and promote it for all people." As the healthcare mandate is retooled, let us pray that the religious freedom of the Church is preserved.

COME CELEBRATE!!!

Feast of our Lady of Lourdes & World Day of Prayer for the Sick Saturday, February 10th 2:30PM

All, especially the sick, the frail and the handicapped are invited to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Mass will be celebrated and the sacrament of the sick will be offered. Refreshments will follow. Welcome begins 2:30pm. Mass celebrated 3:00pm. St. Aloysius Church, Cherry Street, New Canaan.



Francis is the Pope of many firsts. He is the first Jesuit pope, the first from the Americas, the first from the Southern Hemisphere and the first non-European pope since the Syrian Gregory III in 741.

20th ANNIVERSARY



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD

Father Daughter Dance

Girls in Preschool 4's through Eighth Grade and their fathers or special guests enjoyed themselves at the annual Saint Mary School Father Daughter Dance! This beloved event is greatly anticipated. Each year, SMS Alumni return to help with this magical evening. The girls and their guests danced the night away in the hall which was transformed to match the theme of the night, "Be-you-tiful". A special thanks to SMS Parents Shannon Dickson and Tricia Nelson Van Brakel who co-chaired the event, and their army of volunteers who transformed the Hall and gave everyone a night to remember!

We invite you to come take a closer look. Saint Mary School will be holding a Kindergarten – Grade 8 Open House on Thursday, February 8th from 9-10 am, and a Preschool Open House on Friday, February 9th from 9:30-10:30 am. Meet with other parents, speak with faculty and staff, and see classes in session. To register, for more information about SMS, or to set up a tour, please contact Anna O'Rourke at 203-438-7288 or visit www.smsridgefield.org.

FAITH FORMATION CORNER



Truly Present in the Holy Eucharist

We believe that Jesus Christ is really present in the Holy Eucharist—body, blood, soul and divinity. Jesus tells us "I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him" (*John 6:48-56*).

The miracle of God's real presence under the appearance of bread and wine at every Mass is another confirmation of Christ's love for us and His desire for each of us to have a personal relationship with Him.

CATHOLIC ACTION

VOLUNTEERS: LUNCH & BINGO

Two or three volunteers needed to serve lunch. Commitment is appx 2x/month, weekdays of your choosing, Mon-Fri. Hours: 11:45am-1:00pm. ALSO needed: 2 Bingo Callers. Wednesdays 1-2:30. Commitment - 1 hour a month. Where: Congregate Housing, 51 Prospect Ridge. For more info or questions, contact Suzanne MacAvoy, 203 438-7056, sdmacavoy@hotmail.com



DONATE: FOOD PANTRY

In the month of February, collected food goes to the Dorothy Day Hospitality House. Collection bins are in the Church and Hall. Thank you for your generosity!



MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Our order was founded in 1882 on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity. The Marquette Council's activities started here at St. Mary Parish in 1894 and have continued uninterrupted for over 120 years. Our goal is to offer our members and their families an opportunity to share God's love through service to our Priests, Parish and community. Want to enrich your faith & model strong values for your family? Learn more at www.KOFC.org or contact Phil Del Giudice, Grand Knight, Compass_grp@yahoo.com.



PILGRIM VIRGIN

The Pilgrim Virgin statue was damaged on her last visit and will not be able to travel for several months until repairs are made. Our Lady's message to all remains the same: Pray the rosary daily for world peace and the conversion of sinners.

RCIA

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - will celebrate the Rite of Sending at the 11:15 Mass on February 11th. This Rite marks the end of the period of the catechumenate and ushers in the period of purification and enlightenment as they prepare to be received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. The candidates will meet Bishop Caggiano at the Rite of Election or Enrollment of Names on February 18th at St Theresa Church in Trumbull. Please keep these catechumens and candidates of the Diocese in your prayers. *This group is open to anyone who would like to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation and/or Holy Eucharist. All are welcome to join and learn more about the Catholic Faith. For more info, call Pat Postiglione, 203-438-7335 or ppostiglione@smcr.org*

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION



Our Adoration Chapel, the oldest one in Connecticut, is open 24/7. The entrance is near our Religious Ed Office. Stop by anytime or sign up for an hour:

O = permanent or substitute adorer urgently needed.
X = there is at least 1 adorer. 2 adorers are desired.
Blank boxes= there are 2 or more adorers

	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
12M-1am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1am-2am	X	O	X	X	O	X	X
2am-3am	X	X	X	O	X	X	X
3am-4am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4am-5am	X	X		X	X	X	O
5am-6am	X	X	X	X		X	X
6am-7am	O	X	X	X		X	X
7am-8am	X	O	X	X	X	X	X
8am-9am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
9am-10am	X	X	X		X	X	X
10am-11am	X	X		X		X	X
11am-12N	O	X	X	X	X		O
12N-1pm	X	X		X	X	X	X
1pm-2pm	X	X		X	X	X	O
2pm-3pm	X		X	X		X	X
3pm-4pm	X	X	X		X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X				X	X	X
5pm-6pm	X			X	X		X
6pm-7pm	X	X	X		X	X	
7pm-8pm	X	X				X	X
8pm-9pm	X	X	X			X	X
9pm-10pm	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10pm-11pm	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11pm-12M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

As Mother Teresa said, "God has not called me to be successful, He has called me to be faithful." With Ash Wednesday fast approaching, let us keep these thoughts in our hearts & minds. Consider taking a scheduled hour in our Chapel for Lent or volunteer for those who are not able to keep their hour by calling Bill or Monica at 914-533-2832. God bless us all.

EVERY Thursday evening, 7-9pm, in our Adoration Chapel, the Chaplet of Mercy, 7 Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother and 15 decades of the Rosary sung and prayed. Please join us!



ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

Take an opportunity to deepen your relationship with the Lord - along with 50 to 60 other like-minded men. How about spending a weekly hour and half experiencing our Men's Ministry on Saturday mornings from 6:30-8:00AM? Besides having a great and welcoming community, we also serve bagels, coffee & OJ each week to ease the pain of a **very worthwhile wakeup call.**

January 2019 Mass Intentions are now available at the Parish Office.